

COUNTY OF OAKLAND
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

MICHAEL J. BOUCHARD



February 26, 2009

The Honorable Cameron Brown
Chairman, Homeland Security and Emerging Technologies Committee
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Senator Brown:

The Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) is now planning to implement a rule requiring part-time police officers to annually complete 520 hours at their respective agencies to maintain licensure.

Though I appreciate the work of the Commission and the concept behind this rule, this new minimum hour requirement for part-time officers will have a negative impact on our agency, both operationally and structurally. Specifically, it is important to mention that all of our court deputies are part-time and include retired police officers who have an average tenure of 25-35 years of police service. Their experience is invaluable and having them employed through our Office in our courts is ideal. They also undergo regular in-service training. I am sure you will find this new rule will create hardships on a variety of agencies both big and small at a time when we all can least afford it.

Again, though I appreciate the work of MCOLES, I hope you and the Committee will take into consideration the consequences of a minimum 520 hour requirement for part-time police officers. It is my hope that a more suitable compromise can be reached which accommodates all of Michigan's law enforcement agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Bouchard".

Michael J. Bouchard
OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF